

Route 40

Route 3 North Transportation Improvements Project

Route 110

QUARTERLY REPORT

August - October 2000

Lowell Connector

Submitted by

The Executive Office of Transportation and Construction

The Massachusetts Highway Department

Modern Continental Construction

Argeo Paul Cellucci
Governor

Kevin J. Sullivan
Secretary and MBTA Chairman

Jane Swift
Lieutenant Governor

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Secretary's Message

In accordance with Chapter 53 of the Acts of 1999, I am pleased to submit this quarterly report to the members of the Project Advisory Council (PAC). This report was prepared in cooperation with Modern Continental Construction and is designed to provide you with a written summary of the progress of the Route 3 North project. This first report covers the time period from the issuance of the Notice to Proceed on August 17, 2000, through October 15, 2000.



Governor Cellucci and Lieutenant Governor Swift place a priority on public participation in decisions that affect local communities. To accomplish that goal, MassHighway Commissioner Matthew Amorello and I decided early in this process to go beyond the requirements of the authorizing legislation. Beginning in October of 1999, the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction (EOTC) and MassHighway have coordinated regular monthly meetings of the PAC. The intent was to maximize local community involvement during the development of the Request for Proposals and the selection process. Since the Notice to Proceed was issued to Modern Continental Construction, the developer has also been participating in the monthly meetings. I believe this process has been beneficial and we intend to continue to work with the PAC members extensively during the project's construction.

This report is designed to provide you with a summary of the progress made on this project during the reporting period. We also want to provide you with a record of the issues raised by the PAC during this quarter and the response to your requests. If the members of the PAC would like to see changes made to the format of the report, please contact the EOTC/MassHighway staff with your suggestions. It is our goal to provide the PAC with reports that are clear, concise, informative and helpful. Your suggestions will always be welcomed.

The Route 3 North project is one of the most significant projects MassHighway has ever undertaken. It is also a vital project for improving the economy and quality of life for those who live and work in the Route 3 corridor. The PAC is a significant part of making this project a success. On behalf of Governor Cellucci and Lieutenant Governor Swift, Commissioner Amorello and I look forward to working with you as this project moves forward into construction.

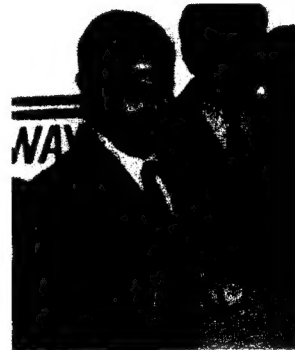
Kevin J. Sullivan
Secretary

Report Summary

The attached report is separated into four sections. Section I will discuss the background of events prior to the reporting period. Section II details those issues and events that occurred during the reporting period of August 17 to October 15, 2000. Also included in this section are the responses of EOTC/MassHighway and Modern Continental Construction to the issues raised by the PAC. Section III briefly outlines those items expected to occur in the next quarter, and Section IV is an appendix containing supporting documentation for the report.

Section I: Background

Governor Cellucci signed the legislation authorizing the design/build/finance process for Route 3 on August 12, 1999. The first PAC meeting was convened on October 7, 1999 and meetings have been held monthly since that date. Presently, the monthly PAC meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month. The meetings are held in each one of the corridor communities on a rotating basis.



The Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued on December 17, 1999 and three bidders submitted proposals on March 16, 2000. After an extensive selection process, Modern Continental Construction was selected in April of 2000, and the Notice to Proceed was issued on August 17, 2000. During the RFP development and the selection process, input was received from the PAC on several issues. A few of the key issues raised at that time were:

- All seven communities expressed their concern regarding traffic management during construction. Therefore, the RFP limited the hours of construction and required the contractor to establish a method of providing up-to-date traffic information;
- Several communities requested a system to convey information during construction. The RFP required that a website be established by the contractor to provide construction updates and schedules;
- Concerns regarding the hours of construction were also raised. As a result, the RFP limited work hours in accordance with MassHighway regulations and prohibited blasting from being performed during night hours.

The PAC played a significant role in developing a RFP that was responsive to the needs of the local communities. Input from the PAC was also conveyed to the selection committee during the evaluation process and was instrumental in assuring that local concerns were raised with the potential contractors. After the selection was made, Modern Continental Construction joined EOTC/MassHighway as part of the PAC process.

Section II: Quarterly Report for August 17 to October 15, 2000

Community Outreach

The PAC held meetings on September 7th and October 5th during this first quarter. EOTC/MassHighway and Modern Continental Construction also held briefings for the Community Newspaper Company, whose coverage area extends to Bedford, Burlington and Billerica on August 18th, and for the Lowell Sun on August 25th. At these briefings, reporters met the senior project team from EOTC/MassHighway and Modern Continental Construction. Each briefing was designed to provide project information to communities along the Route 3 corridor. Also during this reporting period, EOTC/MassHighway and Modern Continental Construction held several partnering sessions. A key component of the partnering process will be the involvement of local officials. Incorporating local participation into the partnering process is vital to the success of the Route 3 North project.

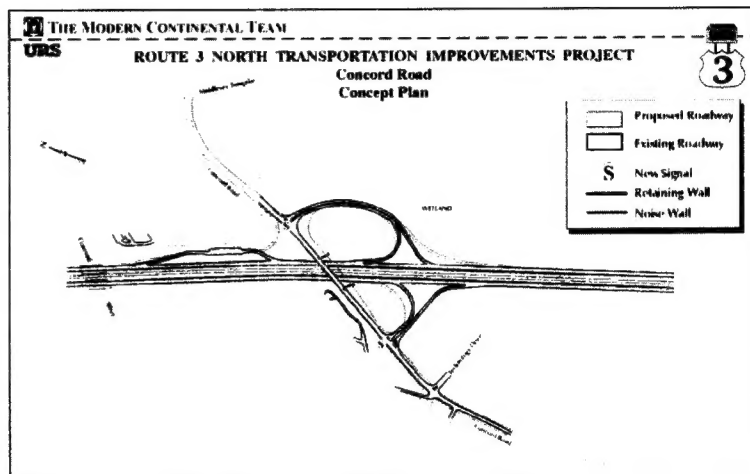
In addition, Modern Continental Construction provided staff and project information during Billerica's Yankee Doodle Homecoming on the weekend of September 16th and 17th. EOTC/MassHighway and Modern Continental Construction provided a project briefing to the Burlington Business Roundtable on September 20th, and participated in the Annual Business Expo for the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce on September 29th. Modern Continental Construction is also a sponsor of the Tri-Community Business Workshops and has submitted information to local businesses for inclusion in corporate newsletters. On October 6th, the official groundbreaking was held at CrossPoint in Lowell.



Design and Construction

Significant initial progress was also made on the design and construction of Route 3 during the first quarter. As of September 20, 2000, the design for Route 3 is approximately 11% complete. Early construction on the project is expected to begin in the fall of 2000. Modern Continental Construction's highway team is currently assessing optimum mainline Route 3 vertical and horizontal profiles. Geotechnical exploratory borings are in progress along the corridor, as well as ground survey.

Sketch plans for bridge structures on Concord Road, Route 113, Richardson Road, Route 62, and Route 129, and for the I-495 collector/distributor (C/D) road are in progress. An I-495 C/D temporary bridge sketch plan was submitted to MassHighway for review on September 25, 2000. The bridge structure type study is near completion. Modern Continental Construction is analyzing and evaluating information to optimize abutment design and roadway geometry.



Modern Continental Construction had several discussions with MassHighway regarding the Drum Hill Rotary design. In September, Modern Continental Construction made a presentation to the Town of Chelmsford regarding the proposed design and received a favorable response.

Environmental

The environmental approval process continues to proceed. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued the Water Quality Certification permit Section 401 on September 20, 2000. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers issued the Section 404 permit on October 11, 2000. A variance for the Town of Tyngsborough was issued by DEP on September 25th, and the remaining variances are expected by the end of October or early November. The Town of Westford issued an Order of Conditions this past Spring.

Modern Continental Construction has started the DEP Chapter 91 Waterways licensing process. This process is vital to the construction schedule. Construction is

scheduled for next summer on the Concord River, Shawsheen River and the River Meadow Brook bridges. Modern Continental Construction is also preparing hydraulic reports for River Meadow Brook, Moore's Canal and Stony Brook. EOTC/MassHighway and Modern Continental Construction also met with the Middlesex Canal Commission on October 5th to discuss the best way of protecting the Canal during construction.

Miscellaneous

Modern Continental Construction has researched all utility permits dating back to the 1940's. Numerous site visits have also been made to verify utility locations and to search for unidentified utilities. On September 22, a letter was sent to all private utility companies requesting meetings to discuss engineering issues, schedule and methods of reimbursement. Meetings have been scheduled with each utility company. The utility companies will also be included in the partnering process.

Construction of the permanent field office in Westford is progressing. The foundation concrete was placed on October 4, 2000. The field office construction remains on schedule for opening in early December.

Test borings continue to be performed along Route 3. At the PAC meetings, concerns over traffic back ups due to this testing were raised. As a result, variable message boards have been placed near work areas to provide warnings to motorists. In addition, the website (www.route3construction.com) now has updated work schedules posted each week.

Project Advisory Council

At the October 5th PAC meeting, it was announced that the meeting format would be modified. As of that date, all PAC meetings will include 20-30 minutes for a presentation on a specific area of the project. For instance, at the October meeting a presentation was made showing the proposed designs for the interchanges at Route 110, Route 62/Burlington Road, Concord Road and Kendall Road. Similar presentations will be made at all future meetings to insure that the PAC is kept fully informed on all aspects of the Route 3 project.

During this reporting period, the PAC members raised concerns other than those previously mentioned. EOTC/MassHighway and Modern Continental Construction attempted to respond to these concerns as best as possible. For example:

- Providing sound barriers in addition to those already planned was raised on several occasions. At the November PAC meeting, a detailed presentation

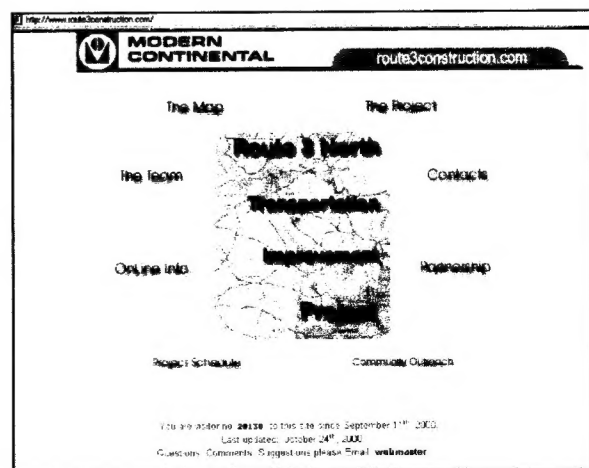
regarding the process for determining the location of sound barriers will be provided. Also, each neighborhood requesting a sound barrier will be addressed individually. Secretary Sullivan has also committed to re-studying any area that believes it is in need of a sound barrier.

- The Town of Tyngsborough raised concerns regarding the schedule for construction on Route 3 and the concurrent construction of the Tyngsborough Bridge. Closing Locust Avenue and working on the Kendall Road interchange at the same time the Tyngsborough Bridge is under construction may impact traffic. Modern Continental Construction is meeting with the local officials and will develop a plan to coordinate schedules.
- Several communities questioned how emergencies would be responded to during construction on Route 3. A detailed emergency response plan was provided to each community.
- It was proposed that a crossing, either a tunnel or a bridge, be included as part of the Route 3 project in order to accommodate the Yankee Doodle Bike Path. EOTC/MassHighway, while supporting the project, did not find it appropriate to include the bike path as part of the Route 3 construction. Significant environmental issues would be raised if the crossing was included and that could delay the schedule for Route 3. EOTC/MassHighway will continue working on the bike path as a separate project and pledged not to do anything as part of the Route 3 construction that would impede a future bike path crossing.

Section III: Project Schedule for the Next Quarter (October 15 to January 1, 2001)

Several project milestones will be achieved in the next quarter. It is anticipated that all of the variances will be received from DEP during this period. Upon receipt of these remaining variances and weather permitting, work will begin on clearing trees from the Route 3 work zone. The field office is expected to be completed and open for business within this reporting period as well.

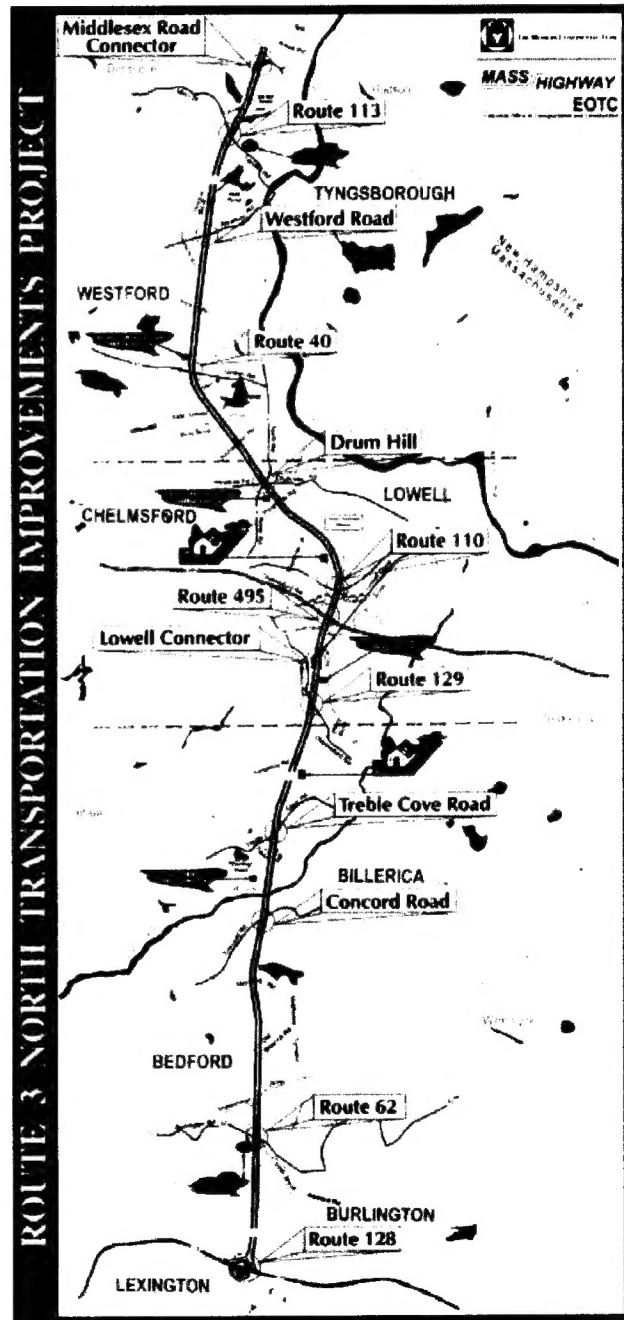
The Route 3 website will continue to be expanded. This website has proven to be a valuable resource for providing construction information. For instance, the site generated almost 10,000 hits in September alone.



EOTC/MassHighway and Modern Continental Construction are also developing a plan to extend work hours for test borings. This will allow the work to be completed sooner. This proposal will be developed in a manner that will not negatively effect traffic or the adjacent communities. Any changes in work hours will be announced to the PAC, as well as posted on the website.

Section IV: Appendix

The attached appendix contains a list of the PAC representatives from each community, meeting notes and attendance sheets from the PAC meetings during this reporting period, and a copy of the concept designs for the interchanges as presented at the October 5th PAC meeting.



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Route 3 North PAC Meeting – Bedford – 8/3/00 12 Noon

The meeting took place at the Bedford Police Station in the Police Training Room. The tables were rearranged before the meeting so that all PAC members could sit around the table. This will be the format for future meetings to encourage working meetings and inclusion by all present.

The meeting opened with introductions of MHD members, Modern Continental Team members and, then, the PAC members around the table.

Mary Carrier read a letter from Margaret O'Meara to the PAC members telling them she was leaving and thanking them for their work and support on the Rt. 3 Project and mentioning that Mary Carrier was going to assume her position on the PAC.

Jack McDonnell announced that the contract had been signed and approved by FHWA. He then introduced Mike Lenihan as the assistant project manager and talked about the members from MHD who would be involved.

Mike Lenihan said he sees two basic groups, the Design Group and the Construction Group working closely together as part of the Design/Build Delivery System.

Jack then turned it over to Peter McNulty from Modern Continental who introduced the members of his team who were present.

John Kennedy from VHB was introduced to discuss traffic maintenance for the project.

He said that lanes going south will never be closed as all work will take place in wide median areas.

Other lanes will remain open during peak hours. There is money available to set up an information system so that communities can be kept informed of traffic flow.

Traffic counts have been taken over the corridor and on the corridor.

Rt. 495 – will construct two temporary bridges to take over the traffic and finish overpasses. Then will start on Route 3.

There was a question about the Emergency Response System and if Modern Continental had a plan to react to if there should be such an emergency. For example, can they move barriers to allow for emergency vehicles to get through and how long would it take?

Rt. 3 PAC Mtg. – Bedford – 8/3/00 (cont'd)

Beverly Woods from NMCOG asked about contacting businesses along the corridor so that they can alert their employees who use this route of possible closures or slow-downs.

The question of tree removal came up and Peter McNulty said that all of the trees would be pulled completely clearing the wide median. Someone asked if there would be public hearings to discuss tree removal.

Mike Lenihan said that the State was exempt when it came to trees on public highways. The Tree Shading Law?

Bob Mercier asked about communication to police and fire departments about possible details and directing of traffic during construction.

Rick Reed asked about minutes to the meetings and an agenda.

Mary Carrier said that minutes would be taken at each meeting and that part of the proposal called for Modern Continental to have someone doing the minutes at each meeting.

We agreed to have an agenda one week before the monthly PAC meeting and this would be sent to all of the members. The PAC members can submit items for the agenda each month. The minutes would likewise be distributed one week after the monthly meeting.

Rick Reed also asked about the environmental permitting status, variances, etc. Jack McDonnell said they were proceeding on schedule.

Mark Whitehead asked about the Open Space purchase for the communities. We explained that a committee had been formed and they would be approaching cities and towns for their proposals before prioritizing and making selections.

Some agenda items mentioned were: Blasting notification, night work (when and where planned), Traffic maintenance (standing agenda item), Open Space, etc.

Next meeting 9/7/00 planned in Westford

Route 3 North PAC Meeting-Westford-September 7, 2000 12 Noon

The meeting took place at the Westford Police Station in the Police Training Room. John Greeley of Modern Continental gave the opening report on the status of the Project. Borings of the Route 3 corridor are now happening. The target date for receiving the various environmental permits and variances is September 20th. The Concord River, as a Wild and Scenic River, has been the subject of meetings with the National Park Services. The design being done by URS will be 25-50% complete by the middle of winter.

Tree removal will begin once all the permits are in hand. Philip Eliopoulos brought up tree-cutting and the role of trees as a sound barrier in Chelmsford. The determination of which trees will be removed will come once design work on retention ponds, etc. are finished.

John Hayden presented an overview of the Emergency Response System and the cooperative efforts that take place in an emergency. He handed out the Scope of Objectives from the Unified Response Manual for Roadway Traffic Incidents.

The Open Space Plan has been the subject of an internal task force and will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

Outreach to the communities and businesses have begun and will be ongoing. Modern Continental and MassHighway staff have met with the Billerica Plan. Meetings with Cindy Frene and the TMA on van and car-pooling will take place. There is the need to coordinate with Bob Kennedy and the LRTA on transportation to the park and ride site and along the corridor.

Traffic maintenance concerns are being carefully looked at and heavy construction along Route 3 will begin in March or April of 2001.

The Project Office is being set up at 630 Boston Road Suite 203 Billerica 01821. It will be staffed and the phone number is 1-978-671-5470.

Beverly Woods has been receiving calls on the Yankee Doodle Bike Path in Billerica. MassHighway is looking at the issue and the coordination with the Route 3 Project and will discuss it at future meetings.

Meetings with Billerica staff and Route 3 personnel concerning the Vietnam Veteran's Park have been taking place.

The official date of the ground breaking will be announced to all PAC members and concerned parties as soon as it is finalized.

The next meeting of the PAC is October 5th at noon.

PAC MEETING – WESTFORD – 9/7/00

John Greeley, Manager Community Relations for Modern Continental, gave an update of the project. Talked about the work going on at present, borings, surveying, some clearing.

Permits – Discussed the status of the permits. Said we were waiting for coordination of DEP and Army Corps of Engineers.

Hoping to be at 50% of design by November. Will only do work on what Mass Highway has reviewed and approved.

Rick Reed asked about trees. Jack McDonnell referred to Chap. 87 sec 5 which explained about state removing trees and the Tree Shading Law. Rick asked for a copy of it to bring back to Bedford.

Discussed Open Space Plan. Said that committee was formed and as soon as permitting is in place will start prioritizing land parcels and communities impacted most will receive first consideration but all should be looking into properties.

Transportation – Discussion regarding alternate means of transportation. Mentioned that Cindy Frene of Transaction, a van pooling service, would be attending a future meeting to discuss this service. Also, said we would look into bus service either Coach or C&J. Beverly Woods from Northern Middlesex Council of Gov. said that there are buses now running on Rt. 3 and perhaps they would expand their service.

John Kennedy gave update on traffic maintenance and counts. Also, mentioned that his company does van pooling service and this was part of our development agreement. He will be having an in-house meeting with Modern to go over this plan.

Philip Eliopoulos from Chelmsford asked about sound barriers. He said that depending on how many trees were being removed, there may be other sites that would require sound barriers and that we should be willing to revisit with additional locations being added to the existing list.

He also gave me a letter from Town Manager, Bernie Lynch, regarding the Drum Hill Rotary. They looked at preliminary design and have some questions regarding some of the signals and features proposed. We suggested setting up an individual meeting in Chelmsford with Modern to discuss the design and also the sound barriers.

Beverly Woods asked about the proposed bike path in Billerica. She asked if some of the work could be incorporated into the Route 3 project, such as underpass and overpass work. They have a million dollars for this bike path.

We stated that the bike path is not part of the Route 3 project right now but would certainly not preclude any plans for a future path.

Bob Colt and John Greeley will have a table with handouts at the Yankee Doodle days in Billerica.

Route 3 North PAC Meeting—Lowell—October 5, 2000 12 Noon

The Route 3 Project Advisory Council meeting took place at the Lowell Tsongas Arena in the Club Room. Jack McDonnell gave the Project Update, including the boring and survey work that is currently taking place. MassHighway and the Modern Continental Team have been attending business and community events in the Route 3 Corridor. Environmental permits are still being awaited before the tree clearing activity begins.

Chuck Kostro discussed proactive PAC meetings, with selected designs being presented at this and future meetings. Noise barriers will be presented at the next meeting. Letters have gone out to those who wrote concerning the Yankee Doodle Bike Path. Nothing being done on Route 3 would preclude the Bike Path from being built in the future.

Mapping and interchange planning is going on and a Phase 1 erosion plan is being developed for tree clearing.

Mark Shamon of URS and MCC presented four exit Concept Plans for information and discussion. The proposed and existing roadway drawings for Route 62/Burlington Road, Concord Road-Billerica, Route 110/Chelmsford Street-Chelmsford/Lowell and Kendall Road over Route 3-Tyngsborough were handed out to the PAC for the presentation and questions.

Meetings will take place between MHD/MCC and Tyngsborough concerning coordinating traffic issues and Tyngsborough Bridge construction. Rest area or visitor centers plans will be presented to the communities in the future. Sound barrier placement and plans will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Drum Hill Interchange discussion was led by Philip Eliopoulos, who thanked EOTC and MCC for their cooperation. The Drum Hill Circle will no longer be a circle, which did not work.

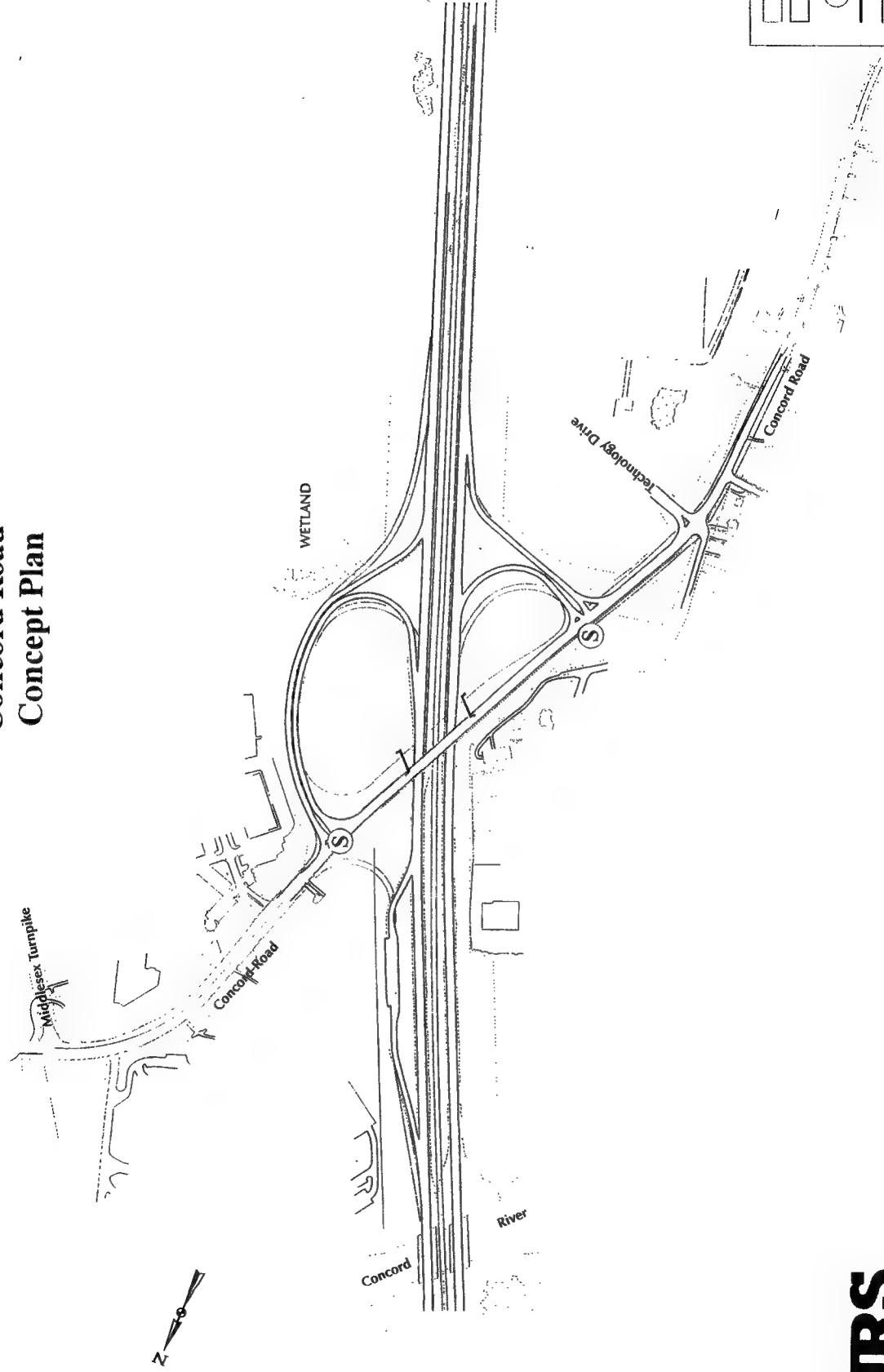
The second park and ride facility will be the subject of an EOTC report being done by the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments and a draft report will be available in the near future.

Lowell City Manager John Cox spoke on the importance of the Route 3 Project to Lowell and his readiness to work with all who are involved with the Route 3 Project.

The next meeting of the PAC will be November 2, 2000 at 12 noon.

ROUTE 3 NORTH TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

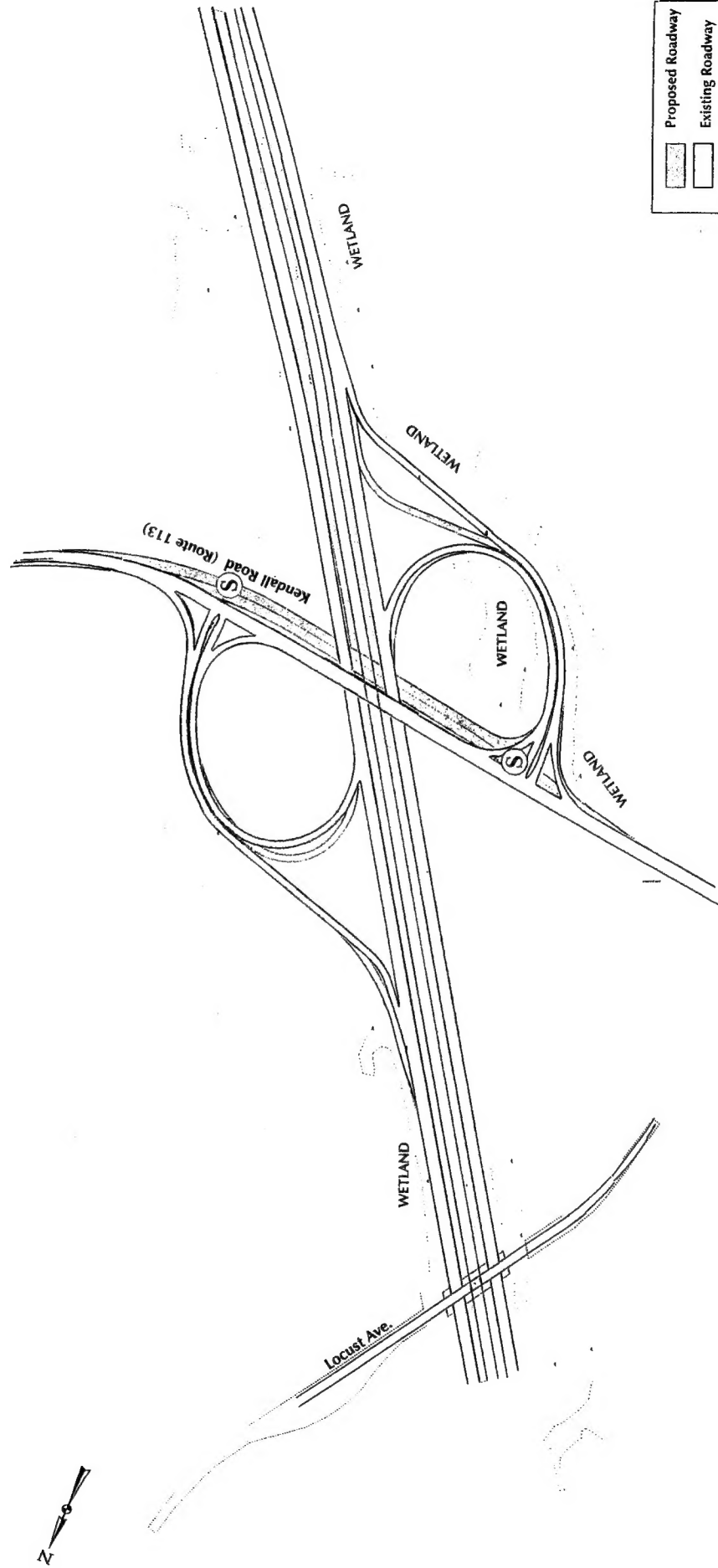
Concord Road Concept Plan



	Proposed Roadway
	Existing Roadway
	New Signal
	Retaining Wall
	Noise Wall

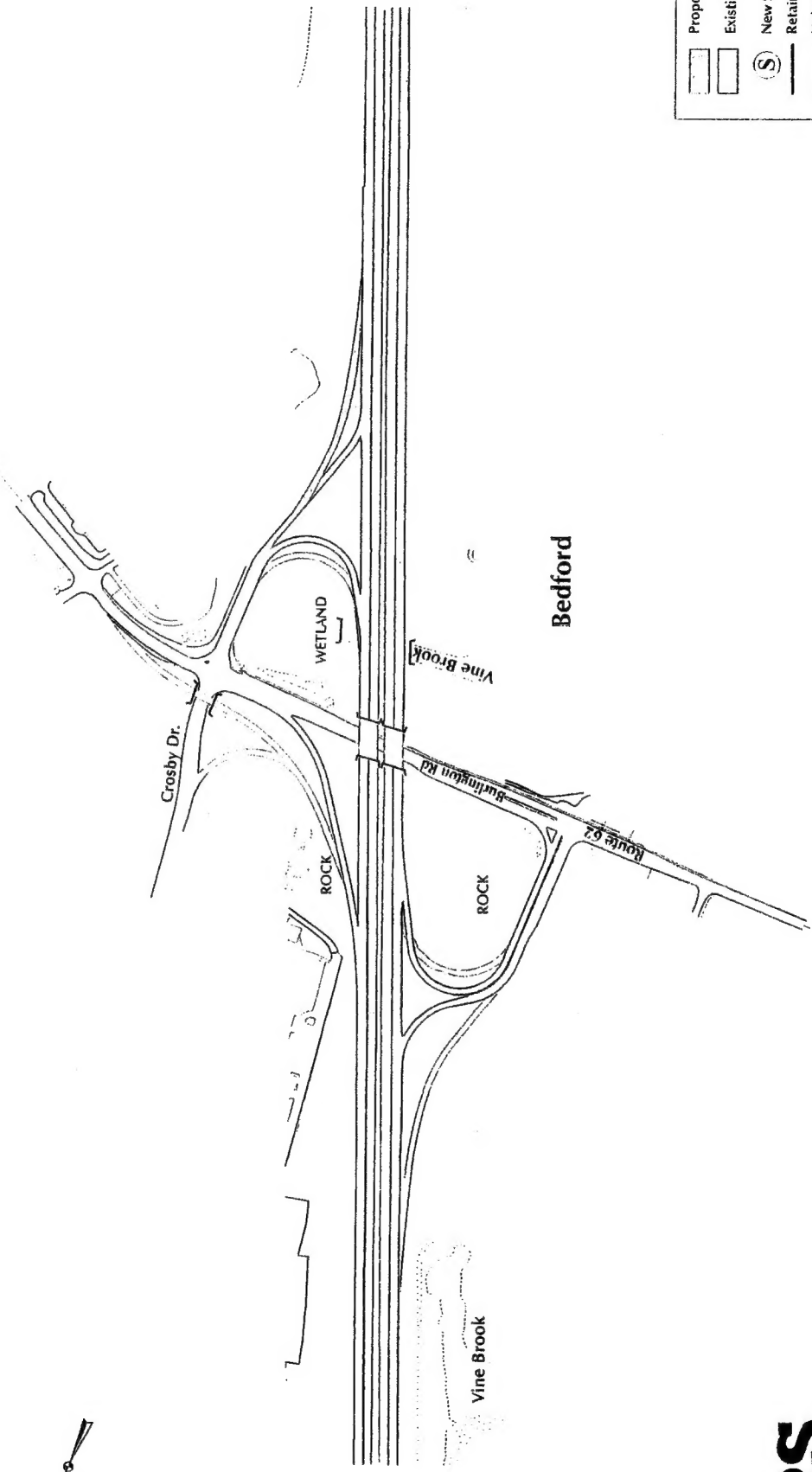
URS

ROUTE 3 NORTH TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT Kendall Road over Route 3 Concept Plan



URS

ROUTE 3 NORTH TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT Route 62/Burlington Road Concept Plan



	Proposed Roadway
	Existing Roadway
	New Signal
	Retaining Wall
	Noise Wall



ROUTE 3 NORTH TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT **Route 110/Chelmsford Street - Chelmsford/Lowell** **Concept Plan**

